United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1642
11 May 1994

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, in Paris, has meetings with French President and Prime Minister; says it is not too late for international humanitarian and political action to end killings in Rwanda.

+ United Nations launches inter-agency appeal for $532 million to provide humanitarian aid to 4 million people in former Yugoslavia for six months.

+ International Narcotics Control Board meets in Vienna to review implementation by States of international drug control treaties.

+ IAEA reiterates that its inspectors must be allowed to measure fuel rod samples at certain nuclear-power plants in Democratic People's Republic of Korea; invites country to discuss inspection programme in Vienna.

+ IAEA says 485 nuclear-power plants were operating or being built worldwide last year.

* * *

On the first day of his visit to France, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today met in Paris with President François Mitterand. They discussed the meeting on the former Yugoslavia to be convened tomorrow by Mr. Boutros-Ghali, and the situations in Rwanda and Haiti. President Mitterand expressed his full support for the efforts of the Secretary-General, the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and African leaders to resolve the situation in Rwanda. Earlier in the day, the Secretary-General had said that it was not too late to take international action at the humanitarian and political levels to try to end the violence there.

The Secretary-General also met today with French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur. Among the issues they discussed were the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, especially the reconstruction of Sarajevo, and French participation in the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). The Prime Minister raised the question of the 11 French hostages being held by the

(more)

For information media--not an official record

Bosnian Serbs, and the Secretary-General said he would discuss it during tomorrow's meeting on the former Yugoslavia.

Before concluding his trip to South Africa yesterday, the Secretary-General took part in a working meeting with United States Vice-President Al Gore, President Al Hassan Mwinyi of Tanzania, and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), Salim Salim. That meeting focused on the situation in Rwanda, and on what actions might be taken there by the international community.

* * *

The United Nations today launched a consolidated inter-agency appeal for $532 million to provide humanitarian assistance for the former Yugoslavia for six months. The appeal, which will begin in July, was launched simultaneously in New York and Geneva by Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Peter Hansen and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Sadako Ogata.

The aid programme will help more than 4 million people caught up in the humanitarian crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in other parts of the former Yugoslavia. It will provide basic food, shelter and health services for the displaced and the destitute. Special emphasis is being given to urban populations, including the institutionalized, the homeless and low-income pensioners.

* * *

The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) is currently meeting in Vienna to review action taken by States to implement international drug control treaties. During its two-week session, the Board will seek to identify loopholes in the drug control system and to develop more efficient control policies. Drug abuse and trafficking are considered to be serious threats to socio-economic development and, in many cases, political stability.

The Board is an independent body, and consists of 13 members who are elected by the Economic and Social Council. It will focus on the supervision of the legal drug business and on the monitoring of chemicals used to manufacture illegal drugs. Using information from various sources, it will assess States' compliance with treaty obligations and work to prevent the diversion of controlled substances into illegal channels. Because of the special character of its deliberations, the Board's proceedings are confidential.

* * *

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has reiterated that its inspectors must be permitted to measure a representative sample of fuel rods during any core discharge at certain nuclear-power plants in the Democratic

(more)

People's Republic of Korea. IAEA Director-General Hans Blix yesterday invited the People's Republic to send a team of experts to Vienna to discuss the inspection programme and the schedule for it.

Mr. Blix proposed sending an inspection team to the People's Republic in the next few days, on the assumption that the core discharge would be deferred. The team would perform activities which the IAEA had not been allowed to carry out during an inspection of a reprocessing plant last March. It would also undertake such activities as the servicing of cameras and checking of seals.

* * *

A total of 485 nuclear-power plants were operating or being built around the world in 1993, according to a report by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Last year, nine nuclear-power plants were connected to electricity grids in Canada, China, France, Japan, Russia and the United States. Those figures were compiled by the IAEA's Power Reactor Information System.

Nuclear power accounted for more than half of electricity production in Lithuania, France, Belgium and the Slovak Republic. A total of 17 countries (including Taiwan, China) relied on nuclear plants for at least a quarter of their electricity needs.

* *** *